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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
25 April 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)
SUBJECT: Afro-Asian Conference Developments

The Bandung meeting ended on Sunday afternoon with the adoption of a lengthy communiqué dealing with various aspects of political, economic and cultural co-operation. The communiqué was by no means a victory for either the Communists or neutralists as Western--particularly US--interests came out very well.

In the economic field for instance, the value of economic assistance from outside the Afro-Asian area was not only recognized, but praised. The communiqué even called for the establishment of a special US fund for economic development. Economic co-operation within the UN was also urged. It was also agreed that the participating governments would nominate liaison officers who would promote the exchange of information on matters of mutual interest. The rest of the economic section dealt in general with such specific matters as shipping rates, remittance of oil profits and establishment of regional banks and insurance companies.

The cultural section of the communiqué stated that Asian and African co-operation in this field should be developed in the larger context of world co-operation.

With regard to human rights and self-determination, the conference declared its full support of the principles embodied in the UN charter. It condemned racial discrimination in general and specifically as practiced in South Africa. It called on all participants, however, not to be "victims of the same evil in their struggle to eradicate it." Support for the Arab case against Israel was included under this heading, again within the framework of the UN.

Colonialism--in whatever form it might manifest itself--was denounced as contrary to human rights and dignity. In declaring its support of the cause of freedom and independence

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of all people, the conference called on "the powers concerned" to grant freedom to all. Indonesia's claim to West Irian was upheld and independence was demanded for French holdings in North Africa.

In the interest of promoting world peace and co-operation, the meeting called for universal membership in the UN and listed participants who qualified but were not members. Communist China was excluded from this list, but a "unified Vietnam" was included. Under this topic, the conference appealed for a cessation of nuclear weapons tests as a first step toward the prohibition of the manufacture of such weapons. It also stated that universal disarmament is "an absolute necessity" for the preservation of peace and called on the UN to continue its efforts to this end.

The communiqué concluded with a "declaration on the promotion of world peace and co-operation." There was no mention of "coexistence" or the "five principles." Instead, it stated that "nations should practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors" in accordance with 10-principles, the first of which is respect for human rights and the "purposes and principles of the charter of the United Nations." Although some of the "five principle" themes were included, another called for respect for the right of each nation to defend itself singly or collectively in conformity with the UN's charter. Still another called for respect for justice and international justice.

The closing speeches were mild, although Zorlu of Turkey took a parting shot at the Communists by condemning "new types of colonialism practiced by a certain international doctrine."

Chou En-lai's final statement was notable only for his remarks claiming that Communist China retained the right to "liberate" Formosa and indicating that Peiping was not averse to holding more Afro-Asian conferences. With regard to the Formosa issue, the New China News Agency has attacked the US response to Chou's overtures as "unreasonable."

Pham Van Dong, the chief delegate from North Vietnam, told the conference that he was "deeply grieved" that his country was still divided but that the "Vietnamese people believe that at the next session of the Afro-Asian conference there will be a delegation of a unified Vietnam."

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Nehru's final effort indicated that his neutralist faith remains unshaken. He said that although "we" want to be "friends of everybody," they would co-operate only as equals. He also reiterated his belief that Afro-Asian countries should not be "camp followers of either the US or USSR."

Although no official action was taken regarding future conferences, some efforts are apparently being undertaken. It is reported that the secretariat will continue to function in skeleton form. As indicated, Chou and Dong are apparently in favor. Romulo is reported as taking the position that the Colombo powers should call any future meeting--in consultation with the other participants.

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